

*Joseph is
6 yrs ? Completely Cured*

True Transplant Story

Cord Blood Saved Our Son's Life
Joseph and Darlene Davis of Cedar Hill, Texas, are the proud parents of two healthy sons, three-year-old Joseph Jr. and one-year-old Isaac; the baby Darlene calls her miracle child.

Joseph Jr. wasn't always the strong and healthy boy he is today.



The Davis Family

Diagnosed at birth with sickle cell anemia, Joseph Jr. lived in constant pain. He ran high fevers, suffered from swollen hands and feet and required frequent blood transfusions to control his red blood cell count. To run and play like other kids his age, Joseph Jr. would need a stem cell transplant. "The doctors told us that our son may not be with us for very long," said Joseph Sr. "We didn't even know if he would make it to his teens."

Joseph Jr.'s parents were determined to help their son. They spent a year searching for a stem cell donor. "Being African American made it so much more difficult," added Darlene.

The discouraged parents worried constantly about their son, until a lucky twist of fate turned the family's life around. Darlene was pregnant. At first the couple couldn't believe it. They had undergone infertility treatments to get pregnant with Joseph Jr. and never counted on having another child. "I was told I couldn't get pregnant again," said Darlene.

It's a Perfect Match

The couple was elated. Amniocentesis revealed that the baby Darlene was carry-

ing was a perfect match for Joseph Jr. She recalls the moment the doctor told her the news, "He said, 'this is a miracle,' and I said 'yes it is!'"

Darlene gave birth to a healthy baby boy. "I was happy, so I named my baby Isaac because that means laughter," said Darlene.

Minutes after Isaac was born, doctors collected the blood from his umbilical cord. His stem cells were banked with Cord Blood Registry, the world's most experienced family cord blood bank, free of charge as part of its Designated Transplant Program—a service provided to families based on medical need.

Joseph Jr. Has the Transplant

Prior to the transplant, Joseph Jr. received high doses of chemotherapy that destroyed his blood system, which was creating the sickle cells. His physician, Dr. Joel Weinthal, pediatric hematologist and stem cell transplant physician explained, "once we wiped out his old system with high-dose chemotherapy, the new donor cells from the cord blood could be given to form an entirely new blood and immune system, which would not have sickle cell anemia."

Isaac's cord blood stem cells were transplanted into his brother on May 10, 2002. "It was about twenty days after the transplant, when all of a sudden he started feeling better," said Joseph Sr. "He started looking good, his energy was back, and he was on his way to recovery."

One Year Later

It's been a little over a year since Joseph Jr.'s cord blood transplant. Now, he is a healthy, vibrant three-year-old. His doctors say he is cured. At home, the boys play and wrestle and according to their parents, are as close as brothers can be. "That Isaac was there to save Joseph, that's the miracle," said Joseph Sr. "He doesn't really understand about cord blood now, but he knows something about Isaac helped save his life."